WESTERN BIRDS

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WESTERN BIRDS

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WESTERN BIRDS

Volume 11, Number 4, 1980

FOURTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

JOHN S. LUTHER, College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda, California 94501

This report contains the decisions of the California Bird Records Committee agreed upon in 1979 and in the first half of 1980. Currently the committee consists of Laurence C. Binford, David DeSante, Richard Erickson (Vice Secretary), Kimball Garrett, Lee Jones, Paul Lehman, John Luther (Secretary), Guy McCaskie, Benjamin D. Parmeter and Philip Unitt. Former members Jon Dunn, Arnold Small and Richard Stallcup also worked on the records reported in this paper.

It is with tremendous thanks that the committee acknowledges all of the observers who took the time to submit their records. Without them the committee would not function. Please continue to support the committee in the documentation of rare birds as they occur in California. The committee needs documentation for the following species when seen in California (in addition to any species unrecorded in the state):

Yellow-billed Loon, Least Grebe, Wandering Albatross, Short-tailed Albatross, Laysan Albatross, Streaked Shearwater, Scaled Petrel, Galapagos Storm-Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Masked (Blue-faced) Booby, Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby, Olivaceous Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White Ibis, Bewick's Swan, Trumpeter Swan, Emperor Goose, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Baikal Teal, Garganey, Tufted Duck, King Eider, Mississippi Kite, Zone-tailed Hawk, Harris' Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, American Oystercatcher, Piping Plover, Wilson's Plover, Dotterel, European Jacksnipe, Upland Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Rufous-necked Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Parakeet Auklet, Black-billed Cuckoo, Groove-billed Ani, Snowy Owl, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Thick-billed Kingbird, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Coues' Flycatcher, Eastern Wood

Pewee, Skylark, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Rufous-backed Robin, Wood Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Wheatear, White Wagtail, Red-throated Pipit, Sprague's Pipit, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-green Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Pine Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Streak-backed (Scarlet-headed) Oriole, Common Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia, Varied Bunting, Painted Bunting, Black Rosy Finch, Common Redpoll, Baird's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

There are few comments following each species reported below, as this report is being published so soon after the third report (Luther et al., West. Birds 10:169-187, 1979). The file number assigned to each record is given in parentheses. All records are on file with the committee Secretary and are available for examination by interested persons. The initials of those persons who submitted documentation for a record follow each accepted record. If the person or persons finding a bird submitted a report, their initials are given first.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). One adult female specimen (Pacific Grove Mus. Nat. Hist. 2348) (120-1977) 29 Dec 1968 to 1 Jan 1969, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (RB); photo on file. One (26-1977) 18 Feb - 7 Mar 1973, King Salmon, Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RLeV, RAE, TS). One (33-1977) 10 Nov 1973, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (LCB). One (34-1977) 9 - 10 Jan 1974, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (PM). One (25-1977) 24 Jan - 16 Feb 1975, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (RAE, GMcC). One (24-1977) 23 Feb 1975, King Salmon, Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One (9-1977) 20 Dec 1975, Tomales Bay, Marin Co. (SFB). One (28-1977) 19 Feb - 19 Mar 1977, Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co. (DR).

A review of all records in California through Aug 1974 is in print (Remsen and Binford, West. Birds 6:7-20, 1975).

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS (*Diomedea albatrus*). One (34-1978) 28 Aug 1977, about 90 mi W of San Diego, San Diego Co. (KCR).

This and the 20 Apr 1978 sighting (Helm, West. Birds 11:47-48, 1980) are the only records for California since 1946. Formerly quite common.

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). Two (35-1977) 15 Apr 1973, about 90 mi W of Eureka, Humboldt Co. (RLeV). One (36-1977) 19 Nov and one (36-1977) 2 Dec 1973, Pacific Grove shoreline, Monterey Co. (AB). Three (37-1977) 26 Jan 1974, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (SFB).

No longer on the review list.

SCALED PETREL (*Pterodroma inexpectata*). One specimen (Calif. Acad. Sci. 69933) (18-1978) 1 May 1977, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. (BS); photo on file. (Figure 1).

For a thorough discussion of the occurrence and distribution of this species see Ainley and Manolis, West. Birds 10:113-124, 1979.

Figure 1. Scaled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) (18-1978), 1 May 1977, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., California.

Photos by Bruce Sorrie

GALAPAGOS STORM-PETREL (*Oceanodroma tethys*). One specimen (*O.t. kelsalli*, Calif. Acad. Sci. 68474) (123-1977) 21 Jan 1969, Carmel, Monterey Co. (RB) (Yadon, Auk 87:588-589, 1970); photo on file. One (94-1977) 24 Sep - 9 Oct 1977, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (AS, KLB, SFB, LCB, GMcC, VR, DR).

These are the only accepted records for California. Two recent records are presently being reviewed.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*). One (39-1977) 22 Sep and 6 Oct 1973, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (AB). Two to five (99-1977) 24 Sep - 16 Oct 1977, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (AS, JL, GMcC, JM); photo on file.

Found each fall in Monterey Bay.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*). One sub-adult (126-1977) first found 12 Jul 1968 and summered through 1973, San Rafael, Marin Co. (RS); photo on file. This bird was recorded on the following dates: 12 Jul - 25 Aug 1968, 3 May and 14 Jul - 3 Sep 1969, 30 Jun - 27 Jul 1970, 29 May - summer 1971, 28 May - 18 Jul and 5 Nov 1972, 8 Apr - 29 Jun and mid Oct 1973.

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus bewickii*). One adult (11-1977) 13 Dec 1975 - 4 Jan 1976, Victoria Island, San Joaquin Co. (FB, GB, DS, WS). One adult (160-1977) 21-30 Dec 1977, Victoria Island, San Joaquin Co. (DRu, RAE, GMcC, VR).

Most authorities now consider this and the Whistling Swan (*C. columbianus*) as one species.

TRUMPETER SWAN (*C. buccinator*). Four adults (2-1978) 27 Nov 1977, Mono Lake, Mono Co. (DDeS, SL).

A very rare winter visitant to California.

EMPEROR GOOSE (*Philacte canagica*). One immature (42-1977) 15 Oct 1972 , near Chico, Butte Co. (TM); photo on file. One immature (23-1977) 11 Nov 1972, Eureka, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One immature (43-1977) 14 Nov 1972, south spit Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RM). One immature (1-1978) 8 - 14 Oct 1977, Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou Co. (RE). Three adults (29-1978) 29 Dec 1977 - 22 Apr 1978 with four present on the last date, Limantour Estero, Marin Co. (JH, GMcC, JM, DR, HS, BS, MW); photos on file.

A rare winter visitant to California.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). One (41-1978) 4 - 14 Aug 1977, Brawley, Imperial Co. (JA, GMcC).

A very rare straggler from Mexico. This is the fifth record for California.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*). One male (128-1977) 4 Feb - 7 Mar 1971, Palo Alto, Santa Clara Co. (RB); photo on file. One adult male (4-1977) 20 Dec 1976 - 6 Feb 1977, Tiburon, Marin Co. (GMcC). One male, one female (24-1978) 28 Oct - 12 Dec 1976 with male reappearing 22 Jan 1977 and remaining into Mar, Lake Merritt, Alameda Co. (VR). Probably this same male seen 19 - 28 Mar in nearby Alameda.

This straggler from southeast Asia has now been found every winter in California since fall 1976.

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*). One female (127-1977) 24 Dec 1969 - 7 Mar 1970 and 1 Jan - 28 Mar 1971, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (RB); photo on file.

Now about fifteen records of this species for California.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*). One immature (102-1977) 11 Sep 1977, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (AS).

Reported annually since 1972 in southern California.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*). Three (85-1977) 14 - 19 Aug 1977, Salton City, Imperial Co. (JL, GMcC); photo on file.

What were undoubtedly the same three birds were at nearby Salt Creek, Riverside Co., on the east side of the Salton Sea from 20-30 Aug 1977.

WILSON'S PLOVER (*Charadrius wilsonia*). One (74-1977) 27 - 29 Jun 1977, McGrath State Beach, Ventura Co. (GMcC, VR, BSc); photo on file. (Figure 2).

The third record of this species in California and the first since 1918.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). One (44-1977) 12 - 13 Oct 1966, Limantour Estero, Marin Co. (PL). One (45-1977) 22 Nov 1966, Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co. (PL). One (125-1977) 13 Oct - 4 Nov 1969, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (MS); photo on file. One (91-1977) 2 Oct 1977, Salinas River and one, probably same individual, 15 - 16 Oct 1977, Castroville Sewage Ponds, Monterey Co. (LCB, RB, BDP, JP, VR); photo on file. One (27-1978) 27 Oct - 1 Nov 1977, Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. (GMcC, DR). All of the above were juveniles.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*C. pusilla*). Two (68-1977) 20 May 1977, Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial Co. (GMcC, DR). One juvenile (73-1977) 13 Aug 1977, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (LCB).

Now recorded annually in California.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*). One juvenile (86-1977) 5 -16 Sep 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (EG, JL, JSL, DP, VR); photos on file.

All reports are from the fall.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). One (22-1977) 17 Jul - 3 Sep 1974, Arcata Bay, Humboldt Co. (TS).

The third accepted record.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). One adult male (54-1977) 15 Sep 1974 - 23 Feb 1975, Martinez, Contra Costa Co. (TS, RAE, SL). One (156-1977) 17 - 19 Sep 1977, Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co. (BE, GG, PM). One (132-1977) 27 Oct - 6 Nov 1977, Ano Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo Co. (REM, PMR, TB, THD); photo on file. One (23-1978) 27 Dec 1977 - 28 Feb 1978, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. (JP, WD, JM, BDP, VR, DR); photos on file.

Now found annually in California.

Figure 2. Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) (74-1977), 28 Jun 1977, McGrath State Beach, Ventura Co., California.

Photo by Brad Schram

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One adult (83-1977) 13 Apr 1977, Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz Co. (RW) and one adult (82-1977), very likely same individual as 83-1977, 16 Apr 1977, Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. (BSa). One immature (29-1977) 14 - 22 Apr 1977, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PLe, GMcC, DR); photo on file.

The fifth and sixth records for California.

THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*). One (121-1977) 2 Oct 1966, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (RB); photo on file and in Yadon, Calif. Birds 1:109, 1970. One (55-1977) 7 Sep 1974, Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RLeV).

Now about 12 reports. The Humboldt Bay record is the first outside Monterey Bay.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cynanthus latirostris*). One immature male (6-1977) 16 Jan - 10 Feb 1977, Agua Caliente Hot Springs, San Diego Co. (GMcC, DR).

A regular wanderer to southern California in recent years.

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). One (163-1977) 29 Nov - 2 Dec 1972, near Hollister, San Benito Co. (BG). One (6-1978) 11 Dec 1974 - 2 Mar 1975, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Los Angeles Co. (JSL); photo on file. One (5-1977) 12 Jan - 9 Mar 1977 (and probably same individual there 9 Jan - 3 Mar 1976), Santee Lakes, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One (13-1978) 16 Nov 1977, Bolinas, Marin Co. (SJ).

No longer on the review list.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). One (162-1977) 1 Sep 1972, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (TM). One (87-1977) 18 - 19 Sep 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (LCB, SJ, JM, DSh); photos on file. One (131-1977) 23 Sep 1977, Lake Merced, San Francisco Co. (DD). One (12-1978) 16 Oct 1977, Carmel River, Monterey Co. (PLe).

A rare but regular vagrant to California.

COUES' FLYCATCHER (*Contopus pertinax*). One (157-1977) 27 - 29 Dec 1968, Monterey, Monterey Co. (WR, RB); photos on file. One (28-1978) 18 - 21 Dec 1977, Irvine, Orange Co. (GMcC, DR). One (21-1978) 24 Dec 1977 - 19 Mar 1978 (and undoubtedly same individual 25 Nov 1978 - 1 Feb 1979), Parker Dam, San Bernardino Co. (GMcC, DR).

A casual fall and winter visitant to California.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE (*C. virens*). One (88-1977) 15 Jun 1975, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (DDeS); photos on file.

The second accepted record for California. The first was in Big Sycamore Canyon, Ventura Co., 18 - 19 Oct 1974.

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*). One (4-1979) 16 Dec 1978 - 19 Feb 1979 and presumably the same individual 27 Oct - 1 Nov 1979, Hall Ranch near Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (RAE, DG, AG, JM); photos on file.

This bird has been identified as one of the northeast asiatic races. This is the only record of a naturally occurring Skylark for California and the first North American record outside Alaska. A Skylark, also of one of the asiatic races (apparently *A.a. pekinensis*), was collected on Green Island, Kure Atoll, in the Hawaiian chain on 7 Oct 1963 [Clapp, R.B. and P.W. Woodward, Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus. 124 (3640):1-39, 1968]. The introduced populations in Hawaii and Vancouver Island are of the nominate race *A. a. arvensis*, eliminating these populations as sources for the Green Island bird and the Pt. Reyes bird.

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*). One (137-1977) 21 Oct 1977, Point Diablo, Marin Headlands, Marin Co. (LCB). Two (14-1978) 30 - 31 Oct and one (probably one of the earlier two birds) 17 Dec 1977, Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co. (SV, RSW); photos on file.

Now over ten reports for California.

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*). One (70-1977) 26 May 1977, Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. (PU, GMcC, DR).

A casual vagrant to California.

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*). One (80-1977) 18 - 19 Jun 1977, Palomarin, Marin Co. (BS, JM); photo on file. (Figure 3).

The third record for California.

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). One (107-1977) 15 Sep 1977, Shelter Cove, Humboldt Co. (BC, GC); photo on file.

The second record for California. The first was on SE Farallon Island 11 Jun 1971.

WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*). One (169-1977) 10 Oct 1974, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (PH); photos on file.

The second record for California. The first was at McGrath State Beach 18 - 20 Oct 1972.

RED-THROATED PIPIT (*Anthus cervinus*). One immature (5-1978) 20 - 21 Oct 1977, Carson, Los Angeles Co. (JJ, KG).

Apparently a rare but regular vagrant in California.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). One (65-1977) 7 - 8 Jun 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (DR, JM, GMcC, VR).

The second record for California. The first was on SE Farallon Island 4 Jun 1969.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*V. flavifrons*). One (30-1977) 30 Apr - 1 May 1977, Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. (DR). One (136-1977) 10 - 18 Sep 1977, near Olema Marsh, Marin Co. (JW); photos on file.

A casual spring and fall vagrant to California.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO (*V. flavoviridis*). One (100-1977) 15 - 19 Oct 1977, Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. (DJD, GMcC, DR).

A casual fall vagrant in California.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*V. philadelphicus*). One (21-1977) 16 - 22 Sep 1975, Fairhaven, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One (101-1977) 27 - 28 Sep 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (DR, JM, VR). One (90-1977) 16 - 30 Oct 1977, Carmel River, Monterey Co. (BDP, BC, GC); photo on file. One (22-1978) 23 Oct 1977, Kelso, San Bernardino Co. (VR).

A rare but regular vagrant to California.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*). One (124-1977) 3 - 7 Dec 1967, Willow Creek, Monterey Co. (RB); photo on file. One (69-1977) 11 Jun 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (DR). One (37-1978) 17 - 18 Aug 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (TH). One (30-1978) 12 Oct 1977, Zuma Canyon, Los Angeles Co. (KG). One (16-1978) 29 Oct - 5 Nov 1977, Stovepipe Wells, Inyo Co. (RAE, GMcC, DR, DRu); photos on file.

A casual late spring and fall vagrant to California.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmintheros vermivorus*). One (170-1977) 16 May 1976, San Nicolas Island, Ventura Co. (LJ). One (66-1977) 23 Jun - 10 Jul 1977, Fort Piute, San Bernardino Co. (VR). One (105-1977) 30 Sep - 3 Oct 1977, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Co. (GMcC, DR). One (106-1977) 15 - 26 Oct 1977, Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. (GMcC, DR). One (3-1978) 29 Dec 1977 - 10 Mar 1978, Sunnybrae, Humboldt Co. (DRu).

A casual vagrant in late spring and fall in California.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). One male (61-1977) 31 May 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (VR, DR).

A casual vagrant in late spring and fall in California.

CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*). One (31-1977) 2 - 5 Sep 1976, Fairhaven, Humboldt Co. (RAE).

The fourth report of this vagrant in California.

Figure 3. Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) (80-1977), 18 Jun 1977, Palomarin, Marin Co, California.

Photo by Bruce Sorrie

Figure 4. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) (17-1978), 19 Jun 1976, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co., California.

Photo by Bruce Sorrie

Figure 5. Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta*) (14-1977). 6 Feb 1977. Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., California.

Photo by Bruce Sorrie

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*D. dominica*). One (8-1977) 16 - 19 Sep 1976, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PLe). One (11-1978) 27 - 29 Oct 1977. Carmel River, Monterey Co. (THB, DP).

A casual spring and fall vagrant in California.

GRACE'S WARBLER (*D. graciae*). One (62-1977) 21 May 1977, Clark Mountain, San Bernardino Co. (VR, GMcC, DR). One (38-1978) 20 - 22 Sep 1977, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (RCS, CE, GMcC).

The fifth and sixth reports for California.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosus*). One (63-1977) 27 May 1977, Fort Piute, San Bernardino Co. (VR). One (111-1977) 8 Jun 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (DDeS).

A casual late spring vagrant to California.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*O. agilis*). One female (17-1978) 19 Jun 1976, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (BS); photo on file. (Figure 4).

A casual late spring and fall vagrant to California.

MOURNING WARBLER (*O. philadelphia*). One male (117-1977) 4 Jun 1977, Mesquite Spring, Inyo Co. (KVV).

A casual late spring and fall vagrant to California.

HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*). One male (20-1977) 2 Oct 1971, Fairhaven, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One male (166-1977) 30 May 1974, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (LK). One male (75-1977) 23 May 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC, DR). One male (76-1977) 29 May 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC, DR). One female (79-1977) 29 May 1977, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co. (GMcC, DR). One male (112-1977) 8 Jun 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (DDeS). One female (39-1978) 24-26 Sep 1977, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (BB). One male (98-1977) 28 Aug - 15 Oct 1977, Forestville, Sonoma Co. (VR, JW).

No longer on the review list.

CANADA WARBLER (*W. canadensis*). Two (167-1977) 1 - 3 Sep 1972, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (TM). One (7-1977) 22 Sep 1976, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PLe). One (89-1977) 12 Sep 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (JM).

A rare but regular fall vagrant, accidental in spring. No longer on the review list.

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*). One male (77-1977) 28 May 1977, Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. (DP, GMcC, DR); photo on file. One male (59-1977) 30 May - 8 Jun 1977, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co. (BDP, DDeS, GMcC, DR, VR). One male (2-1977) 9 Feb - 26 Mar 1977, Carlsbad, San Diego Co. (PLe, GMcC); photo on file.

The fourth, fifth and sixth records for California.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*). One female (103-1977) 14 - 19 Sep 1977, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (DR). One immature male (104-1977) 17 - 19 Oct 1977, Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. (GMcC, DR). One female (31-1978) 20 Nov 1977, Zuma Canyon, Los Angeles Co. (KG).

A casual late spring and late fall vagrant to California.

PYRRHULOXIA (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*). One male and one female (67-1977) 6 Jun -1 Jul 1977, Chemehuevi Wash, San Bernardino Co. (NG, GMcC, DR, VR).

The first record of a mated pair on territory in California. The female was seen on a nest in June. The success of the nesting is unknown since the area was not checked in July.

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*). One (15-1977) 24 Aug 1976, Princeton, San Mateo Co. (JM).

No longer on the review list.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW (*Ammospiza leconteii*). One (122-1977) 19 Oct 1974, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. (RB, EM, BY, CY); photos on file. One (64-1977) 21 -24 May 1977, Furnace Creek, Inyo Co. (GMcC, DR, VR).

The Furnace Creek bird establishes the first spring record for California.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*A. caudacuta*). One (15-1978) 27 Dec 1970 - 20 Feb 1971, Dumbarton Point, Alameda Co. (BR, JSL); photo on file. One (151-1977) 20 Dec 1972 - 1 Jan 1973, Dumbarton Point, Alameda Co. (SL). One (14-1977) 4 - 6 Feb 1977 and probably same individual 14 Nov 1977 - 1 Jan 1978, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. (BS, DR, VR); photos on file (Figure 5). One (9-1978) 4 Oct 1977, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co. (RAM).

Now found every winter in some coastal California marsh.

SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). One (153-1977) 30 Jan 1971, Flat Iron Rock, off Trinidad, Humboldt Co. (TM); photo on file. One (19-1977) 26 - 29 Oct 1971, Arcata, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One (18-1977) 29 Oct 1972 and one (18-1977) 11 Nov 1972, probably two different birds, south spit, Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RLeV, RAE, DSc). At least one and probably four different individuals (168-1977) 8 Dec 1972 - 5 Jan 1973, Arcata, Humboldt Co. (TS, DA). One (148-1977) 2 Dec 1972 - 11 Jan 1973, Alameda, Alameda Co. (SFB, JSL, SL). One (149-1977) 25 Nov 1973, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (LWG). One (8-1978) 17 Nov 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (AG, WG). One (129-1977) 19 Nov - 3 Dec 1977, Monticello Dam, Yolo Co. and Napa Co. (JH, JL, GMcC, DR, VR); photos on file.

Rare but somewhat regular along the California coast south to Marin Co.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Identification uncertain

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). One (10-1977) 8 - 26 Dec 1976, Grant Lake, Mono Co.

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). One (16-1977) 29 Sep 1967, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED HERON (*Agamia agami*). One (113-1977) 24 Aug 1977, Salton Sea Beach, Imperial Co.

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus bewickii*). One immature (40-1977) 4 Feb 1975, Oroville, Butte Co.

HARRIS' HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). One (33-1978) 25 Dec 1977, near Ridgecrest, Kern Co.

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*). One (19-1978) 9 Sep 1977, Ano Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo Co.

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW (*Numenius tahitiensis*). One (17-1977) 27 Aug 1973, Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). Two (97-1977) 14 Sep 1977, Lake Talawa, Del Norte Co. Two (138-1977) 10 Nov 1977, Lake Talawa, Del Norte Co.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*C. fuscicollis*). One (4-1978) 27 Nov 1977, Corte Madera, Marin Co.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*C. pusilla*). One (50-1977) 26 Apr 1973, Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co. One (51-1977) 8 Aug 1973, Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co. One (81-1977) 24 Apr - 2 May 1977, Orange Cove Sewage Lagoon, Fresno Co.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Identification uncertain (Cont.)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). One (135-1977) 8 Jul 1977, Mono Lake, Mono Co.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*L. haemastica*). One (95-1977) 12 Sep 1977, Lake Talawa, Del Norte Co.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). One (139-1977) 9 Jun 1977, Pt. Lobos, Monterey Co.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One (110-1977) 23 Feb 1977, San Diego, San Diego Co.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*). One (12-1977) 26 Sep 1974, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). One (114-1977) 15 May 1977, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co.

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). One (92-1977) 3 Oct 1977, Lake Merced, San Francisco Co.

GRACE'S WARBLER (*D. graciae*). One (155-1977) 14 Oct 1969, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co.

MOURNING WARBLER (*O. philadelphia*). One (57-1977) 28 May 1977, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co.

FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*). One (150-1977) 8 Sep 1968, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Origin uncertain (identification accepted)

HARRIS' HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). One (32-1978) 21 Aug 1977, Sunland, Los Angeles Co.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dave Anderson (DA), Walt Anderson (WA), Jon Atwood (JA), Karen L. Bailey (KLB), Stephen F. Bailey (SFB), Alan Baldridge (AB), Florence Bennett (FB), Chuck Burnstein (CB), Laurence C. Binford (LCB), George Bing (GB), Tony H. Bledsoe (THB), Ron Branson (RB), Tony Briggs (TB), Bruce Broadbooks (BB), Courtney T. Buechert (CTB), Brenda Clarke (BC), George Clarke (GC), Wilbur Davidson (WD), T. H. Davis (THD), Dale J. Delaney (DJD), David DeSante (DDeS), Donna Dittmann (DD), Claude G. Edwards (CE), Ray Ekstrom (RE), Bruce G. Elliott (BGE), Barbara Emley (BE), Richard A. Erickson (RAE), David A. Gaines (DAG), Kimball Garrett (KG), Gene Gerlach (GG), Bruce Gerow (BG), Al Ghiorso (AG), Wilma Ghiorso (WG), Douglas Gomke (DG), L.W. Gralapp (LWG), Nancy Green (NG), Ed Greaves (EG), Tom Heindel (TH), Phil Henderson (PH), Joel Hornstein (JH), Jerome Johnson (JJ), Stu Johnston (SJ), Lee Jones (LJ), Larry Kirkendall (LK), Jeri Langham (JL), Stephen A. Laymon (SAL), Paul Lehman (PLe), Phil Lenna (PL), Ron LeValley (RLeV), Bob Loveless (BL), Ruth Loveless (RL), John S. Luther (JSL), Susanne Luther (SL), Richard MacIntosh (RM), Eugene Makishima (EM),

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the time and effort that the committee members have expended in reviewing these records and then in reviewing the drafts of this report.

Accepted 17 June 1980

CORRIGENDA

In our paper "Increasing populations of Ring-billed and California gulls in Washington State" (West. Birds 10:31-36, 1979), we made an error in Table 2 concerning the number of breeding gulls in three colonies. The actual numbers should be 60 Ring-billed Gulls and 960 California Gulls at the Miller Rocks Colony, 4710 Ring-billed Gulls and 3600 California Gulls at the Richland Colony, and 4492 Ring-billed Gulls and 5910 California Gulls at the Island 18 Colony. This increases the total number of Ring-billed Gulls breeding in the state during 1977 to 23,366 and the number of breeding California Gulls to 18,264. — *Michael R. Conover, Ecology Dept., Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, Connecticut 06504.*

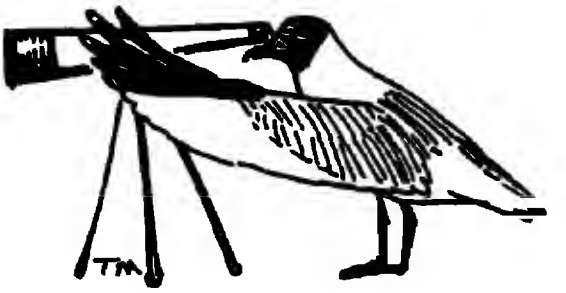
A Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*), reported by me as occurring in the vicinity of Pipe Spring, Mohave County, Arizona (West. Birds 7:29, 1976), was identified incorrectly. The bird, now a specimen in the University of Arizona collection, is actually a Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). — *Richard A. Wilt, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220.*

BULLETIN BOARD

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

I am currently updating the distributional check-list of the birds of Baja California, Mexico. I would like to receive notice of any published references (other than the "standard" journals and museum publications) or unpublished fields notes that record new species or significantly change the known seasonal or distributional status of any species in Baja California. Contributors of unpublished material would of course be fully acknowledged in the report.—*Sanford R. Wilbur, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 N.E. Multnomah, Suite 1692, Portland, OR 97232.*

IDENTIFICATION NOTES



IDENTIFICATION OF WINTER-PLUMAGED LOONS: A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The differentiation of Common *(Gavia immer)* and Arctic *(G. arctica)* loons in winter has received considerable attention lately (e.g., McIntyre and McIntyre, Auk 91:413-415, 1974; Wallace, Brit. Birds 71:75-77, 1978; Leverich, Bird Obs. of E. Massachusetts, Oct:186-189, 1979), and a bevy of "new" field marks have been brought to light. A number of plumage patterns are discussed in these accounts, including: 1) the presence of white feathers around the eyes of winter-plumaged Common Loons (lacking on Arctics); 2) the blackness of the feathers between eye and bill on Arctics (lacking on Commons); 3) the differences in head profiles (more "peaked" in the case of Commons); and 4) the differences in plumage on the nape and neck regions.

Other marks such as presence of white "thigh" (flank) patches on Arctics (Dennis, Brit. Birds 71:225-226, 1978; Fitzpatrick, Brit. Birds 71:226, 1978; Jackson, Brit. Birds 71:226, 1978) and differences in diving patterns (Jackson, Brit. Birds 71:317, 1978) deserve closer scrutiny. For example, photos of winter-plumaged Red-throated *(G. stellata)* and Yellow-billed *(G. adamsii)* loons depicted in the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds: Western Region* (Udvardy, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1977) both exhibit white or whitish thigh patches. If these species (and occasionally perhaps even Common Loons?) can exhibit these patches, then the value of this field mark as a "diagnostic" feature of Arctic Loons is open to serious question (particularly at great distances, in which cases its value is most highly touted). As for diving patterns, Commons are supposed to "slide" under whereas Arctics leap slightly upward when diving. This may be true, but further quantitative observations of these behaviors for *all four* species of loon in different aquatic environments should be made before these habits can be safely applied in field identification. Likewise, all differences ascribed to the Arctic Loon need to be field tested with the Pacific coast race, *G. a. pacifica*.

Anyone who has information or suitable photographs pertaining to these or any other field marks of winter-plumaged loons is invited to submit material, for possible inclusion in a summary article, to the Identification Paper Committee, c/o Tim Manolis, EPO Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

Field Identification Paper Committee: Tim Manolis, Chairman, Laurence C. Binford, Guy McCaskie, Richard Stallcup, Bruce Webb.

FORAGING SITES OF WHITE PELICANS NESTING AT PYRAMID LAKE, NEVADA

FRITZ L. KNOPF, Department of Ecology, Fisheries and Wildlife, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074 (present address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Wildlife Research Center, 1300 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524)
JOSEPH L. KENNEDY, Biology Department, Western Montana College, Dillon, Montana 59725

The food habits of White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) have been surveyed repeatedly at Pyramid Lake, Nevada (Hall 1925, Bond 1940, Alcorn 1943, Marshall and Giles 1953, Woodbury 1966). Those surveys, based on fish regurgitated by chicks, showed that pelicans captured predominantly Tui Chubs (*Gila bicolor*) and Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). The chub is an abundant fish indigenous to the lake, whereas the Carp occurs in low numbers. Pelicans were believed to capture Carp at surrounding wetlands.

White Pelicans traditionally nest on Anaho Island in Pyramid Lake. Although the island is now a national wildlife refuge for the species, the relevance of the lake fishery or the fisheries of surrounding wetlands to continued use of that site is poorly understood. The objectives of this study were to determine where pelicans forage in the Pyramid Lake region and to document chronological patterns in their use of the wetlands.

METHODS

Previous authors (op. cit.) speculated that pelicans foraged at five wetlands within 100 km of Pyramid Lake (Figure 1). We counted pelicans at the lake and each of those wetlands during 20 aerial surveys 28 April through 15 July 1976 and 25 March through 28 October 1977. Pelicans were discovered foraging at Honey Lake, California, 30 June 1976 and that site was included in subsequent surveys. Each survey commenced at 0900 and terminated about 1200. Pelicans on nests or loafing at breeding colonies on Anaho Island and Honey Lake (Tait et al. 1978) were not included in the counts.

Since pelicans forage at depths of less than a meter from the surface (Palmer 1962) and since Tui Chubs are deep-water fish that breed in shallow water, we monitored the availability of chubs to pelicans by sampling littoral zones of the lake during the first 2 weeks of each month, April through August, in 1976 and 1977. Netting operations, designed to estimate relative abundance, employed six overnight sets each of 16 m experimental gill nets and standard fyke nets. The design was similar to that described by Powell et al. (1971) and Walberg (1969).

RESULTS

Flocks of pelicans were observed flying between Pyramid Lake and other sites during each of our aerial surveys.

Pelicans were most numerous at the Humboldt River sinks and nearby Stillwater Wildlife Management Area (WMA) during the April and May 1976 surveys (Table 1). Few pelicans were seen foraging at Pyramid Lake or other areas. During June, numbers of pelicans increased dramatically at Pyramid Lake and declined at the Humboldt and Stillwater sites.

On the 17 June 1976 survey almost twice as many pelicans were counted at all sites as on the 7 June survey, and we suspected pelicans were foraging at one or more additional locations around Pyramid Lake. On 30 June we expanded our surveys and located pelicans at Honey Lake, California. Pelicans were also at Honey Lake during the 15 July survey. A total of only 93 pelicans were observed at Carson Lake, Lahontan Reservoir and Washoe Lake in 1976.

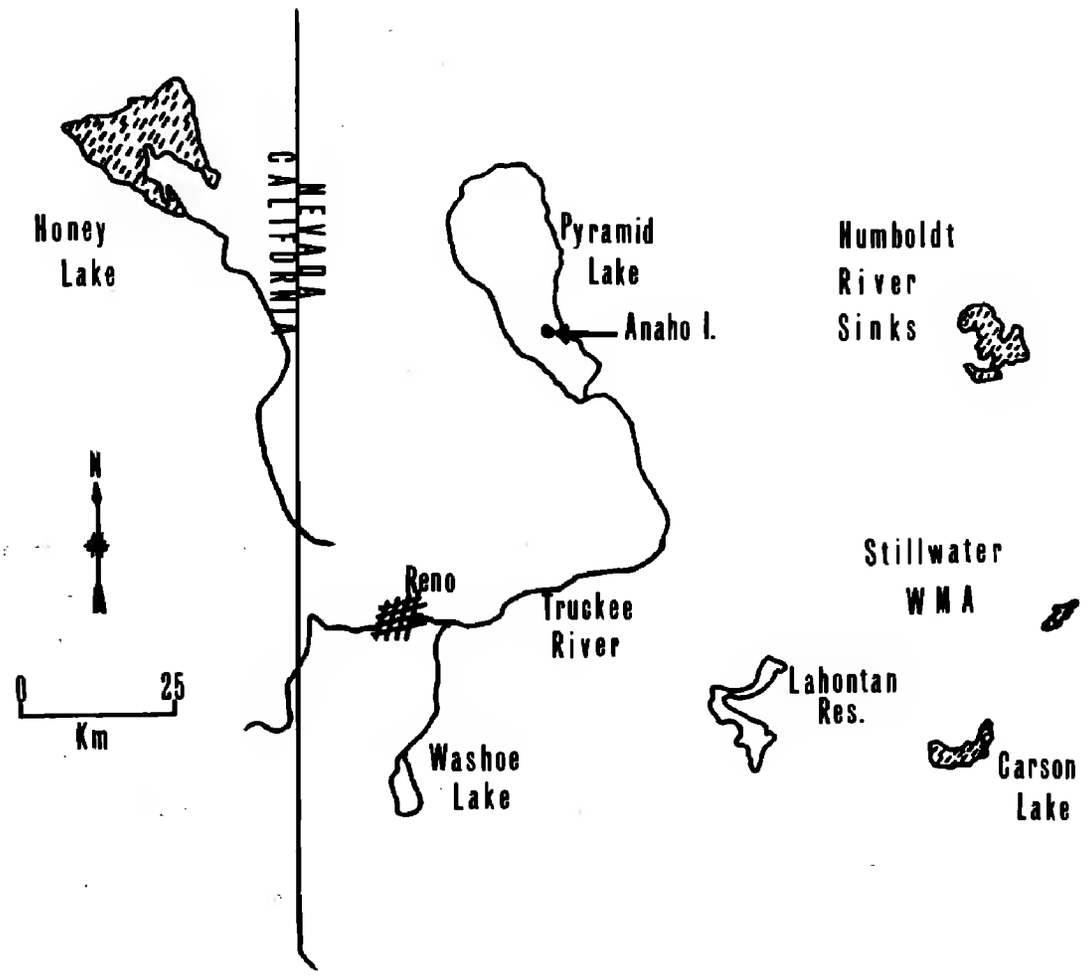


Figure 1. Location of Pyramid Lake and surrounding wetlands used by White Pelicans in western Nevada.

Table 1. Number of White Pelicans observed during aerial surveys of Pyramid Lake, Nevada, and the most heavily used surrounding wetlands, 1976 and 1977.

	Pyramid Lake	Humboldt River Sinks	Stillwater WMA	Honey Lake
1976				
28 Apr	109	2,050	326	—
20 May	243	940	1,095	—
7 Jun	1,535	72	81	—
17 Jun	2,991	178	149	—
30 Jun	398	327	179	2,790
15 Jul	364	462	97	3,422
1977				
25 Mar	15	72	86	1,318
7 Apr	260	223	553	1,480
21 Apr	500	115	1,350	0
10 May	2	268	505	0
2 Jun	1,951	535	0	0
15 Jun	2,932	1	7	0
23 Jun	3,331	1	47	0
8 Jul	719	1,285	38	0
15 Jul	567	960	217	0
3 Aug	493	1,157	423	0
17 Aug	5	1,480	593	0
27 Aug	7	1,350	550	0
12 Sep	147	950	500	0
28 Oct	0	0	0	0

Pelicans again used the Humboldt River sinks and Stillwater WMA sites April - May 1977, but also were observed at Honey Lake. They foraged predominantly at Pyramid Lake during June, then returned to the Humboldt and Stillwater areas July - September. Only seven pelicans were seen at other sites during 1977.

Foraging activity of pelicans on Pyramid Lake commenced with the appearance of Tui Chubs in littoral zones (Figure 2). The chubs occurred in relatively low numbers inshore most of the year, but moved into shallow areas in large schools to spawn in June. Although the chubs remained inshore into early August annually, pelicans discontinued foraging on the lake in late June.

DISCUSSION

In the Pyramid Lake region, White Pelicans selected food items most available within a meter of the water surface. Each spring pelicans foraged heavily in the shallow marshlands of the Humboldt River sinks and Stillwater WMA. Carp were the predominant fish at these sites.

The pelicans switched foraging sites to Pyramid Lake as large schools of Tui Chubs moved into shallow water to spawn. The pelicans' abandonment of this food source in late June suggests they were responding to something besides the mere presence of chubs in shallows.

We suspect that pelicans cued on spawning behaviors of chubs which occurred only in June. Spawning chubs move with quick jerking motions, often rolling on their sides and occasionally breaking the surface of the water. The spawning behavior, from the air, appears similar to the movements of fish foraging or trapped in shallow water at surrounding wetlands.

During late 1976 and early 1977, pelicans foraged in greatest numbers at Honey Lake. During this period water levels of that lake were dropping rapidly, stranding many fish (mostly Carp) in shallow

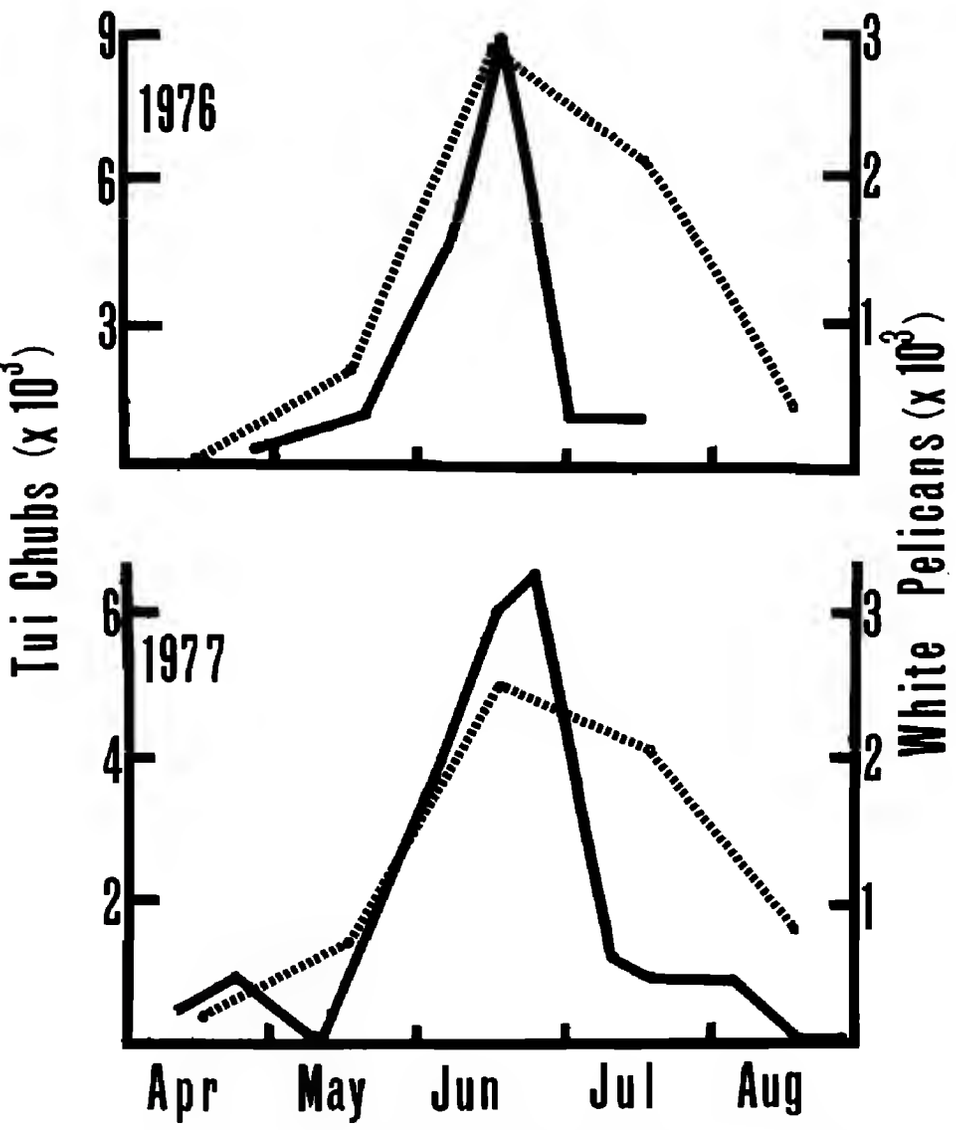


Figure 2. Numbers of Tui Chubs captured in littoral zones (dashed line) and White Pelicans counted on Pyramid Lake (solid line), April through August in 1976 and 1977.

water. The lake was dry by late spring 1977. Similarly, pelicans utilized the Humboldt River sinks intensively in summer 1977 as its water levels were dropping rapidly.

The White Pelican is opportunistic in selecting foraging sites where fish are most readily available. The dramatic switching of sites by most of the population two to three times during the nesting season does not appear tied to the reproductive cycle. Pelicans foraged at marshlands during the periods of mating, egg laying and incubation. They switched to Pyramid Lake (certainly the most energy-efficient site because of its proximity to the nests) when most nests contained small chicks. When chicks were largest, and energetic demands of reproduction were greatest for adults, the pelicans again began foraging at the most distant sites.

Historically, continental White Pelican populations have declined dramatically. These declines were believed due to human disturbance at nesting colonies and draining of marshlands where pelicans forage (Lies and Behle 1966). Many of the islands where pelicans nest, as Anaho Island, are now protected as wildlife refuges. This study indicates, however, that maintenance of wetlands within 100 km of those islands is equally as essential as reduced human disturbance to continued use of a site by pelicans.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank W.F. Sigler & Associates, Inc. for the opportunity to conduct this research. We also thank the Paiute Indian Tribe, PLITE, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for permission to work on Pyramid Lake and Anaho Island NWR. Lynn Howard and Mark Barber of the Stillwater WMA provided field assistance on Anaho Island. Steven Vigg had primary responsibility for sampling of Tui Chub populations at Pyramid Lake. Barbara Knopf prepared the figures and Paul Vohs commented on the manuscript.

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Accepted 18 September 1980

White Pelicans *(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)*, 3 May 1974, Lower Klamath NWR, Siskiyou County, California. Nikon 400 mm lens, f/5.6 at 1/500 sec., K-64 film.

Photo by Ray Ekstrom

NEW BIRD RECORDS FROM MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, OREGON

CARROLL D. LITTLEFIELD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 113, Burns, Oregon 97720

Since Marshall (1959) first published unusual bird records at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon, several other reports have appeared (Kridler and Marshall 1962, Kridler 1965, Littlefield and McLaury 1973). The purpose of this report is to present data on species that had not been recorded on the refuge before 1973.

Formerly, most species new to the refuge were collected when possible and placed in either the refuge museum or the U.S. National Museum. Changes in refuge policy and visitor attitudes now preclude collection. The following accounts are for species new to the refuge since the last published report (Littlefield and McLaury 1973).

CATTLE EGRET, *Bubulcus ibis*. The first observation for the refuge and southeast Oregon occurred on 13 August 1974 when Eldon McLaury and I watched a Cattle Egret for about 30 minutes, 0.8 km N of Malheur Lake. The bird was feeding on insects flushed by a hay mower.

Several persons saw a single bird on 16 July 1976 and again from 30 April through 7 May 1977. Both were feeding in flooded meadows about 1.6 km W of refuge headquarters.

The species was first seen in Oregon in 1965 (Baldridge and Crowell 1966) and several records were reported by 1975, mostly west of the Cascade Range.

WHITE-TAILED KITE, *Elanus leucurus*. The species was first recorded in southeast Oregon when I saw a single bird near refuge headquarters on 7 October 1977. I observed the bird within 10 m, and it was seen repeatedly through 11 November by numerous other people. The individual was never seen more than 3 km from headquarters where it fed in mowed native meadows. The species has been seen previously east of the Cascade Range in central Oregon, and there are several records for western Oregon (Henny and Annear 1978).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, *Buteo lineatus*. Steve Herman saw an adult Red-shouldered Hawk about 64 km S of refuge headquarters near Frenchglen, Harney Co., on 8 August 1976. Stuart Croghan and I returned with Herman on 9 August and observed the hawk 0.4 km W of the original location. We watched the bird for some time as it attempted to roost in a group of cottonwoods (*Populus* sp.) adjacent to the Donner und Blitzen River. Eight Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) were also going to roost and continually harassed the Red-shouldered Hawk. Eventually the bird was driven away (southwest) and was not seen again. I know of no other recent record in eastern Oregon. The Red-shouldered Hawk breeds in appropriate habitat in the Central Valley and coastal lowlands of California (Small 1974). Since the late 1960s the species has been expanding its range into the eastern California deserts, northward along the coast into Humboldt County, California, and as far north as Currey County, Oregon (Crowell and Nehls 1976a). In northeastern California it was seen at Modoc NWR, Modoc County, 11 September 1976 and at Honey Lake, Lassen County, 10 September 1976 (Winter and Erickson 1977).

In recent years the species has had reduced nesting success with most failures caused by disturbance from land clearing and tree cutting operations (McCaskie 1974). The current range expansion could be the result of habitat loss over much of its California nesting area.

HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus*. An adult Herring Gull was found by David Fix et al. on 26 March 1977 on a small pond about 10 km NW of refuge headquarters. Caryn Talbot and I photographed it the same day. On 27 March two adults were present, accompanied by Ring-billed and California gulls (*L. delawarensis* and *L. californicus*). These were the first Herring Gull records for southeastern Oregon.

The species is apparently increasing in southern Idaho and eastern Washington. The increase may be attributed to water developments in a formerly waterless area. Sightings might be expected to increase in the northern Great Basin as more Herring Gulls use these inland water developments.

SABINE'S GULL, *Xema sabini*. The refuge recorded its first Sabine's Gulls on 17 September 1975 when Stuart Croghan and I observed two on Stinking Lake 48 km W of headquarters. Two other observers saw a single bird on 18 September 1975 at the same location. This represented the first record for eastern Oregon, and one of the few for inland Oregon.

This species is casual inland in the West. For example, there are six records for Nevada (Lawson 1977). Larrison and Sonnenberg (1968) describe it as a rare to fairly common fall migrant and irregular spring migrant in eastern Washington.

COMMON TERN, *Sterna hirundo*. Caryn Talbot and I watched a Common Tern on 19 September 1975 about 40 km W of headquarters. We watched the bird for about 20 minutes as it fed in a small pond. This is the first record for the refuge, but the species has been seen at four other locations in eastern Oregon.

A few breeding colonies are along the Columbia River in eastern Washington (Larrison and Sonnenberg 1968). Apparently most of the Washington birds migrate down the Columbia River to the Pacific Coast, with a few migrating overland into the northern Great Basin.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus platycercus*. On 9 May 1973 I heard and saw an adult male Broad-tailed Hummingbird about 48 km S of refuge headquarters. I examined the bird closely as it perched on dead willow (*Salix* sp.) branches and occasionally flew to other perches. This is the only record for the species on the refuge, but it has been seen on Steens Mountain which adjoins the refuge's southeast boundary (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940).

The species has been seen at several other Oregon localities. Both males and females have been observed in May and June near Shady Cove, Jackson Co., since 1968 (Browning 1975). Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) reported records from Malheur, Wallowa and Lake counties.

The species is known to nest in the White Mountains, Inyo Co., California (Small 1974) and in the mountains of eastern Idaho (Burleigh 1972). Possibly the Broad-tailed Hummingbird breeds in isolated mountain ranges in the northern Great Basin where little field work has been done and the extent of nesting is unknown.

BLUE JAY, *Cyanocitta cristata*. A Blue Jay was seen at refuge headquarters by Stuart Croghan, Frank Conley and me on 26 October 1975. The bird remained through 27 October and was seen by several other persons. Larry Napier and Steve Thompson saw and heard another bird at headquarters on 6 and 7 October 1977.

The species has been invading the Pacific Northwest from the plains states since the 1960s. It arrived at Victoria, British Columbia, in 1963 (Boggs and Boggs 1964) and was seen in Montana and Wyoming in the late 1960s.

Blue Jays became evident in eastern Idaho about 1972 (Kingery 1973) and in western Idaho about 1974 (Rogers 1974). They arrived in western Washington by 1971 (Mattocks et al. 1976). The species was first seen in eastern Oregon in December 1973 (Wayne Hoffman pers. comm.) and by the fall of 1976 had reached

the Cascade Range. There are eight records from northern California (McCaskie et al. 1979).

The Blue Jay has already invaded portions of the range of the Steller's Jay (*C. stelleri*) and hybrids have been reported (Kingery 1972). Presently it is approaching the range of the Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and the outcome of this interspecific contact remains to be seen.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *Polioptila caerulea*. On 5 June 1975 Homer Eshbaugh discovered a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers near Page Springs, 64 km S of refuge headquarters. They were seen in the same area on 17 June and a nest with eggs was found in a Western Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) in mid-July by Steve Herman and members of his ornithology class. Within 1 week the nest had been destroyed and the pair was not seen again.

The species has been reported nesting 385 km E of the refuge in Cassia Co., Idaho (Burleigh 1972), and 350 km W near Medford, Jackson Co., Oregon (Browning 1975).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, *Dendroica virens*. William and Patty Wessinger and I saw an adult male Black-throated Green Warbler as it fed among willows about 3 km NE of refuge headquarters on 17 May 1975. The bird was associating with Townsend's and Wilson's warblers (*D. townsendi* and *Wilsonia pusilla*) and was observed for about 30 minutes. This was the first Black-throated Green Warbler record for eastern Oregon, but Tom Lund saw a female near Astoria, Clatsop Co., on 13 and 14 June 1974, and a differently patterned female was also present the second day.

In California the species is casual in spring and very rare in fall (Small 1974). Washington's first record occurred on 2 July 1975 when a singing male was found on Browne Mountain, near Spokane, Spokane Co. (Rogers 1975).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER, *D. castanea*. On 7 June 1976 at 0900 David DeSante and students from Reed College saw and heard an adult male Bay-breasted Warbler at refuge headquarters. On the same day, at 1800, Caryn Talbot, Stuart Croghan and I watched and listened to the bird as it fed among coniferous trees. This was the first record for the refuge and the second for Oregon.

Oregon's first record occurred on 6 July 1963 when one was collected on the west side of Upper Klamath Lake, Klamath Co. (McCaskie and DeBenedictis 1964). A male was singing at the south end of Howard Prairie Lake, Jackson Co., on 22 June 1976 (Crowell and Nehls 1976b) and another at Davis Lake, Deschutes Co., on 13 and 22 August 1976 (Crowell and Nehls 1977) for the third and fourth state records.

Nevada's first record occurred in spring 1975 at Corn Creek, Clark Co. (Kingery 1975), and an immature was at Pocatello, Bannock Co., Idaho, on 10 October 1975 (Rogers 1976). I know of no records for Washington. In California the species is very casual in spring and casual in fall, with most records from the coast (Small 1974).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*. Several records have accumulated in Oregon since the species was first seen at Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., on 25-30 December 1972 (Crowell and Nehls 1973). At Malheur NWR the species was first seen on 19 May 1973 when members of the Corvallis Audubon Society and I observed an adult male at headquarters. This was the second state record. Since then an adult male was seen 64 km S of headquarters on 29 May 1976; a pair was at headquarters on 15 June 1976; an adult male was 45 km W of headquarters on 4 July 1976; an adult male was at headquarters on 11 October 1977; and an adult male was mist-netted, banded, photographed and released on 29 May 1978.

In addition to the above records, the species has been seen in Oregon at Leslie Gulch, Malheur Co.; Burns and Fields, Harney Co.; Eugene, Lane Co.; near Sisters, Deschutes Co.; and on Hart Mountain, Lake Co.

There are numerous records of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks from throughout California and several have been seen in Idaho. There is one record for Washington (Mattocks et al. 1976).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank John Cornely, Denzel Ferguson, Joe Mazzoni, Harry Nehls, Caryn Talbot and Steve Thompson for reviewing this paper and Dianna Alfstad and Ruth Warneke for typing assistance.

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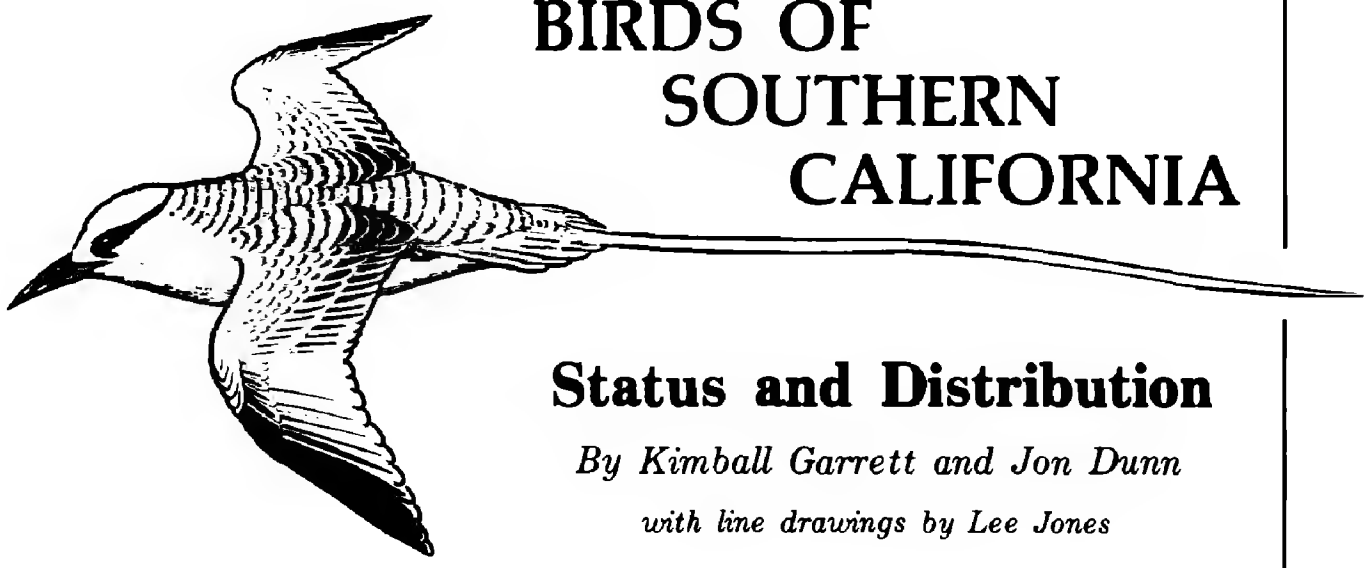
Accepted 5 September 1980

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Sketch by Narca Moore



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WESTERN BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

A PHOTO ESSAY BY RAY EKSTROM*

STEPHEN A. LAYMON, P.O. Box 1357, Yreka, California 96097

Ray Ekstrom became a naturalist, birdwatcher, artist and photographer beginning in the mid-1940s in rural Siskiyou County, California, where anyone who pursued nature study was regarded as suspect. For years Ray was a closet birdwatcher, hiding his binoculars whenever a car would pass. He began photographing his surroundings at an early age and in 1965 tried his first bird photographs.

Today considered Siskiyou County's premier photographer and certainly one of northern California's top wildlife photographers, Ray has worked mainly in central and coastal northern California, southern Oregon and the Canadian Rockies. He has exhibited at many photo shows in northern California.

Ray says, "I do not sit patiently in a blind. My method of photography is more that of an opportunist. A camera is always within reach while I bird the Klamath Basin and other spots of interest in Siskiyou County, although of late I have developed the regrettable habit of leaving it home while hiking. Photography was my number one hobby for years, but lately it has dropped to number two, with birding taking over the top rung. Many of my photos are for verification of unusual birds or for use as models for sketching, a hobby I hope to revive later in life.

"With people coming to the West in increasing numbers, hunting with a rifle or shotgun could become a sport for the affluent only. Some from the hunting camp are now buying cameras with powerful telephotos and, I'm sure, enjoying photography at least as much as, if not more than, hunting. They're finding it takes far more skill to get an attractive photograph than to simply drop the animal with a rifle shot. If there were no challenge, nature photography would not be so satisfying a hobby. How many attractive photos of flying waterfowl does one see? I see very few. Photography, unlike hunting, is not limited to seasons. There is no buck to pack out, no duck to pluck, just little specks in your transparencies to puzzle over and sometimes even to admire.

"The ratio of useable to throw-away photos is interesting. Anyone intercepting a box of my slides before it reached me would surely wonder how I could ever put on a photo display. Let's be thankful for the rejects. They are humbling reminders of our limitations and serve as examples to improve upon."

The following photo essay and the White Pelican photo on page 180 are samples of Ray's work. Two of his best color photos will appear on the covers of future issues of *Western Birds*. His equipment includes three Nikon bodies, a variety of Nikkor lenses and a Hasselblad with several lenses and a strobe flash.

*Rt. 1, Box 471, Montague, California 96064

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker *(Picoides arcticus)*, July 1977, Antelope Creek near Tennant, eastern Siskiyou County, California. Nikkormat FTN, 200 mm lens, f/8, K-64 film.

Screech Owl *(Otus asio)*, autumn (probably November) 1973, Shasta Valley near Yreka, Siskiyou County, California. Nikkormat FTN, 200 mm lens with flash, f/8, K-64 film.

Canada Geese *(Branta canadensis)*, spring (April or May) 1976, Grass Lake on Highway 97, Siskiyou County, California Nikon, 400 mm lens, f/5 6 at 1/500 sec , K-64 film

Pied-billed Grebes *(Podilymbus podiceps)*, 6 February 1976, Lower Klamath NWR, Siskiyou County, California Nikon, 400 mm lens, f/5 6 at 1/250 sec , K-64 film

Forster's Tern *(Sterna forsteri)*, 27 May 1975, Lower Klamath NWR, Siskiyou County, California. Nikon, 400 mm lens, f 5.6 at 1 500 sec., K-64 film.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *(Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus)*, 16 June 1977, Lower Klamath NWR, Siskiyou County, California. Nikon, 400 mm lens, f/5.6 at 1/250 sec., K-64 film.

Western Grebes *(Aechmophorus occidentalis)*, 17 May 1975, Lower Klamath NWR, Siskiyou County, California Nikon, 400 mm lens, f/5 6 at 1/250 sec , K-64 film

NOTES

RECENT NESTING RECORDS OF PURPLE MARTINS IN WESTERN COLORADO

PEGGY L. SVOBODA, KIMBERLEY E. YOUNG and VIRGIL E. SCOTT, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1300 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

The Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) is considered a rare summer visitor or local breeder in western Colorado. Scattered records of these visitors occur from May through July (Bailey and Niedrach, Birds of Colorado, Vol. II, Denver Mus. Nat. Hist., Denver, 1965:550) These birds usually nest in abandoned woodpecker cavities in trees of the transition zone or higher montane woodlands (Johnston, Condor 68:219-228, 1966). Most west slope records of Purple Martins during the breeding season have been made in the transition zone at elevations of 2600 m or more (Bailey and Niedrach 1965). The only Purple Martin breeding records prior to 1978 have been from the headwaters of Apishapa Creek in western Las Animas County in June 1872 (Sclater 1912 cited by Bailey and Niedrach 1965) and from Fort Lewis, La Plata County, where they nested in hollow trees and latticed ventilators (Morrison 1886, 1888 cited by Bailey and Niedrach 1965). Until recently, due to lack of breeding records, the Purple Martin was considered a migrant or accidental straggler in Colorado (Kingery and Graul, Colorado bird distribution latilong study, Colo. Field Ornithol. and Colo. Div. Wildl., 1978:33). As a result of the sightings reported herein, the first addendum to the Latilong Study shows the Purple Martin breeding in southwestern Colorado (Bardwell and Thomas, C.F.O. Journal 14:66-69, 1980). Andrews (C.F.O. Journal 14:82-87, 1980) also lists the Purple Martin as a confirmed breeder in Colorado in the last 15 years.

Herein we report two Purple Martin nests which we observed on Stoner Mesa, elevation 2800 m, 37°42'N, 108°13'W, 17 km northeast of Stoner, Dolores County, southwestern Colorado. Stoner Mesa is covered with extensive mature Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stands where 2 to 8 ha clear-cut patches have been harvested over the last 4 years. Initially, a singing male Purple Martin was observed on Stoner Mesa 8 June 1978. The aspen nest tree was subsequently found 18 July 1978 in a 4 ha aspen harvest area where unmerchantable trees and snags had been left standing. The nest was located in an 8 cm diameter abandoned woodpecker hole of a live aspen, 17 m tall and 50.0 cm dbh. The tree was on a south-facing 2% slope, about 60 m from the edge of the cut. The nest cavity was 9 m high with a southern exposure was was located directly below a large branch stub. The nest tree had mostly solid whitewood, but conks were present indicating that the tree was infected with heartrot (*Fomes* sp.). Several snags standing near the nest were used by the Purple Martins for perching (Figure 1). A pair of Purple Martins was feeding young when the nest was found.

On 20 June 1979, a second Purple Martin nest was found on the southeastern side of Stoner Mesa near Stoner Creek. This nest was also in a 8 cm abandoned woodpecker hole in a live aspen. The aspen was 18 m tall and 45.2 cm dbh. The tree was on a level site in an open area about 6 m from the edge of a beaver pond. The nest cavity was 11 m high with a northern exposure and faced the open area created by beavers. The nest tree had mostly solid whitewood, but some dead branches and evidence of heartrot were present. This nest site was about 2.2 km from the Purple Martin nest located in 1978. In late June, a female was observed carrying green aspen leaves into the hole, and a male was singing while circling the area. Later in July, a male, female, and two young were observed in and around the cavity.

In early September 1978, the first martin nest tree was felled along with all remaining trees during a clean-up operation of the harvested area. On 20 and 21 June 1979, a pair of Purple Martins was seen in an open area around a beaver pond 0.75 km from the 1978 nest site. The male martin was observed making unsuccessful attempts to establish a nest in a hole occupied by a Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*). Although an effort was made to locate the martins, they were not seen in the area again that summer and fall. Presumably, the martins left after failing to secure a suitable nest site. The swallows prefer to nest in tree cavities in relatively open areas where they can fly to and from the nest sites. Such areas are limited in old growth aspen stands. Modification of clear-cutting practices to leave cull and dead aspen trees, either scattered or in groups, would provide many suitable nesting sites for Purple Martins and other swallows.

Figure 1. Nesting pair of Purple Martins perched in a Quaking Aspen snag adjacent to the nest tree in southwest Colorado, 18 km northeast of Stoner, July 1978.

APPENDIX

Listed below are the Colorado records of Purple Martin sightings through July 1980 of which we are aware. Records through 1978, supplied by Robert Andrews, have been reviewed by the Official Records Committee of the Colorado Field Ornithologists and are kept in the Denver Museum of Natural History. Some of these records have also been published in Bailey and Niedrach (1965), *Colorado Bird Notes* (Vol. 2, 4, 7, 9, 13), *Colorado Field Ornithologist* (No. 8), and the *Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists* (Vol. 6). More recent records were supplied by William Shuster and Virgil E. Scott.

Records are listed alphabetically by county and chronologically within each locality. Dates are followed by the names of the observers and number of birds recorded.

ADAMS CO. Barr Lake State Park: 29 Apr 1976, Robert Andrews, 1 male.

BACA CO. 1902, E.R. Warren, 1 pair.

BOULDER CO. Boulder: 26 Jun 1974, Steve Larson, 1 adult male.

DELTA CO. Paonia: 21 May 1955, Homer Griffin, 6.

DOLORES CO. Stoner Mesa, 17 km NE of Stoner: 8 Jun to 18 Jul 1978, Peggy Svoboda, Kimberley E. Young and Virgil E. Scott, 1 pair feeding young in cavity of live aspen, 1 other male. SE side of Stoner Mesa near Stoner Creek: 20 Jun 1979, Virgil E. Scott, Jill Whelan and Peggy Svoboda, 1 singing male and 1 female carrying green leaves into cavity of live aspen; Jul 1979, Jill Whelan and Peggy Svoboda, 1 male, 1 female and 2 young in and around previously located nest cavity.

GARFIELD CO. S side of Douglas Pass: 10 Jun 1978, Steve Larson and Diane Burkhardt, 1 pair. SW of Glenwood Springs: 27 Jun and 22 Jul 1978, Marc Bosch, Odele Bosch and Rich Kielbosa, 1 pair evidently nesting and 1 additional individual. Along the West Fork of Elk Creek, about 13 km above Newcastle: reported in 1908, E.R. Warren, several. White River National Forest, 22 km NE of Rifle: 7 Jul 1959, Dennis Carter, 1 male; 8 Jul 1959, Dennis Carter, 1 female.

LA PLATA CO. Durango: 31 May 1973, Elva Fox, 4 adults. Florida Mesa, S of Durango; 27 Apr 1969, Oppie Reames, number unknown; 10 May 1969, Oppie Reames, a flock of over 40. Fort Lewis: reported in 1886 and 1888, C.F. Morrison, nesting in hollow trees and latticed ventilators of the barracks. 0.8 km W of Pastorious Reservoir, Durango: 10 May 1965, Oppie Reames, number unknown.

LARIMER CO. Berthoud: 23 May 1957, Jay Arnold, 1 pair seen. N of Fort Collins: 1 Sep 1965, Carroll Littlefield, 1 female.

LAS ANIMAS CO. Headwaters of Apishapa Creek: Jun 1872, C.E.H. Aiken, number unknown, breeding.

MESA CO. Head of Beaver Creek, at 2742 m: reported in 1908, R.B. Rockwell, number unknown. 5.6 km SSW of DeBeque: 16 Aug 1979, Ron Lambert and Nancy Green, about 8.

MONTEZUMA CO. Jackson Gulch Dam, near Mancos: 9 Jul 1950, Oppie Reames, 2 or 3 seen. Jersey Jim Lookout, 19 km NE of Mancos: 24 Jun 1979, William Shuster, 1 pair; 4 Jul 1980, William Shuster, 1 female. Near Puett Reservoir, Haycamp Mesa, 22 km N of Mancos: 19 Jul 1979, William Shuster, 4 pairs nesting and feeding young in aspen snags killed by flooding in beaver pond; 27 Jul 1980, William Shuster, 3 pairs nesting in dead aspens, 1 other male. Sellar-McClain Reservoir, 8 km from Mancos: 24 May 1978, William Shuster, 1 male; 26 Jul 1980, William Shuster, 2 males and 1 female feeding. Summit Reservoir, 13 km NW of Mancos: 16 Aug 1974, Richard Stransky, 3; 14 and 28 Aug 1975, Richard Stransky, 3.

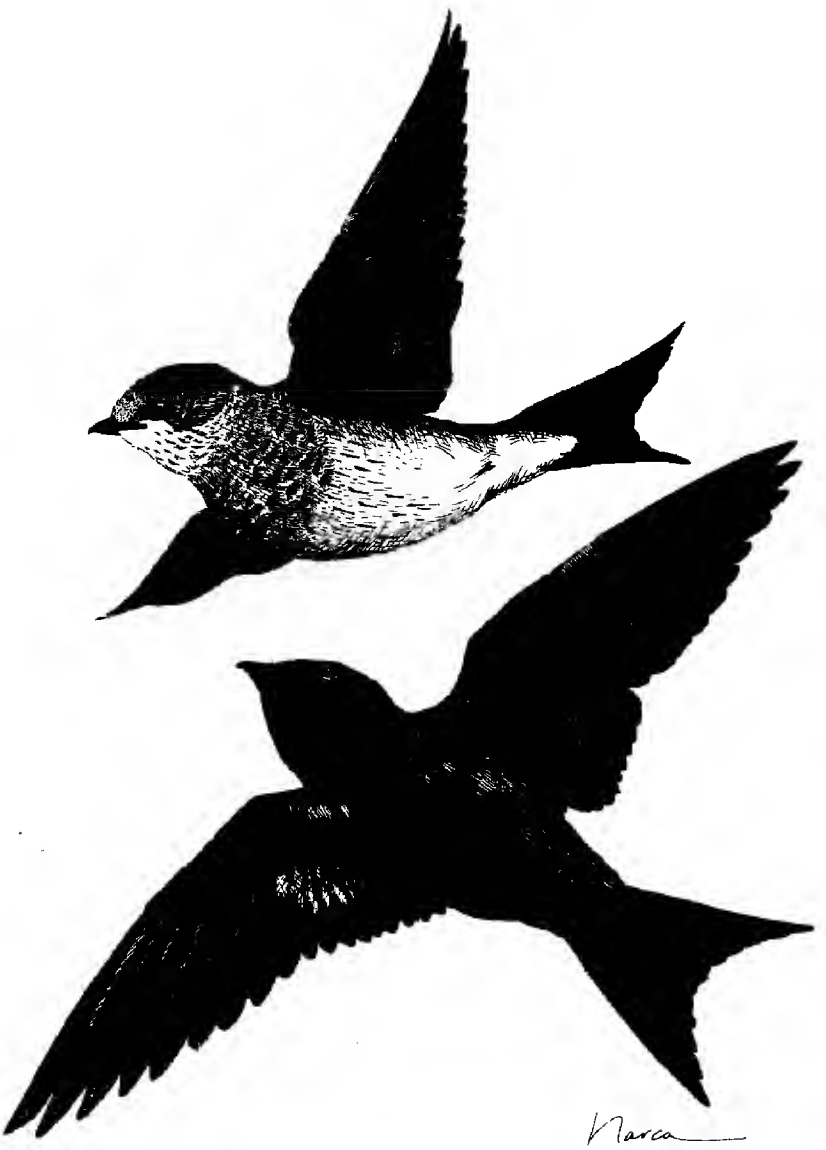
MORGAN CO. 26 km SW of Fort Morgan: 25 May 1976, Joseph C. Rigli and Carl J. Rigli, 1 female. Muir Springs Park: 5 Jun 1971, Jack Reddall, 2.

RIO BLANCO CO. 24 km SE of Meeker, headwaters of Middle Miller Creek: 17 Jun 1980, Virgil E. Scott, 3 males and 2 females feeding; 9 Jul 1980, Virgil E. Scott, 1 pair nesting in cavity of live aspen. White River Plateau, 40 km SE of Meeker, 2437 to 2742 m elevation: Aug 1905, M. Cary, several; 17 Jul 1907, M. Cary, 1. White River Plateau, at Mud Springs near Wind Spring: 13 and 14 Jul 1907, E.R. Warren, 2 males (1 collected).

ROUTT CO. Along Elk River: 11 June 1911, Hersey, 1 male (collected).

YUMA CO. Bonny Reservoir: 20 May 1961, observers unknown, on statewide spring count, 3; 15 May 1971, Jack and Grace Welch and Robert Spencer, on statewide spring count, 2.

Accepted 23 September 1980



Purple Martins *Sketch by Narca Moore*

FIRST RECORDS OF THE RED-FOOTED BOOBY IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

HARRIET R. HUBER and T. JAMES LEWIS, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, California 94970

A Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) visited Southeast Farallon Island, 43 km west of San Francisco, California, on 26 August 1975. A second individual visited the same locality on 12 October 1975. These are the first reported occurrences of the species in the western continental United States. The other mainland United States records have been in Florida, Texas and Louisiana (Woolfenden 1965, Palmer 1962).

In mid-afternoon on 26 August 1975 we saw a Red-footed Booby perched on a large log about 10 m inland from the rocky shoreline of the island. Our approach startled the booby and it flew off almost immediately. A few hours later the bird was rediscovered on the same perch and was observed from 12 m with 7 × 35 binoculars and a 25x spotting scope by all four people on the island (HRH, TJL, John Bowen and David Schorran). It was also photographed (Figure 1).

After dark the booby was caught and examined more closely. Its body was white, the tail and flight feathers dark brown, and the head washed with the yellow of the adult Red-footed Booby. There were a few dark feathers on the back and a few dark upper secondary and tertial coverts. The flight feathers were checked for molt:

Figure 1. Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) and Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) on Southeast Farallon Island, California, 26 August 1975.

Photo by T. James Lewis

primaries numbers 1 to 5 new, 6 half grown, 7 to 10 old; secondaries new except 4, which was old; tertials all new; rectrices new except L 1 and 2 growing, R 1 old and badly worn, R 2 missing. The feet and legs were dull red and the nails ivory. The iris was brown and the skin around the eye was blue-gray. The bill, blue fading to rosy pink on the basal portion, was tipped with dark brown. Measurements taken include: culmen 89.7 mm; tarsus 41.8 mm; wing length 403 mm; weight 1485 g. While in hand the bird regurgitated five Pacific Sauries (*Cololabis saira*), 13-15 cm in length, a common schooling fish of offshore waters. After an hour the bird was banded (band number 807-77540) and released; it was not seen again.

On 12 October 1975 a second Red-footed Booby was sighted on Southeast Farallon. It was observed with 7 × 35 binoculars for about 5 minutes from 250 m by Keith Hansen, Phil Henderson and Jon Winter. The bird was being harrassed in flight by Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*). An adult in white phase, it differed from the first bird in its possession of a white tail.

The Red-footed Booby is found in tropical waters around the world. It is non-migratory, but ranges quite far for food; it usually avoids coasts except for breeding and roosting. One has been recorded 1120 km from its place of banding (Palmer 1962). The adult has two color phases: white (white body with dark flight feathers and either dark or white tail) and brown (all brown or brown with white tail).

Because of the great variation in this species, we are unable to determine the subspecies of the Farallon birds. On geographical grounds they should represent one of the Pacific races, *rubripes* of the central and southern Pacific and Indian oceans, or *websteri* of the eastern Pacific, neither of which has previously been recorded in North America, north of Mexico. The large size and dark tail of the first bird suggest *websteri*.

It is possible that either or both of these birds could have been helped in their journey to Southeast Farallon by riding part or all of the way on shipboard.

We thank William I. Follett for identification of the Pacific Sauries; Glen E. Woolfenden for information on other Red-footed Booby sightings; and David G. Ainley for advice on the manuscript. This is Contribution 129 of Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

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Woolfenden, G.E. 1965. A specimen of the Red-footed Booby from Florida. Auk 82:102-103.

Accepted 30 July 1980

AN UNUSUAL CASE OF BARN SWALLOW MORTALITY

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On 4 June 1978 we found a dead, adult Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) hanging from a twisted loop of horse hair suspended from an empty, adherent Barn Swallow nest beneath a secondary highway bridge in Franklin County, Washington. The 10 m long, wooden bridge, situated 1 m over an irrigation canal in a farmland area, contained 45 active Barn Swallow nests. The looped horse hair, incorporated into the nest rim, was twisted several times around the swallow's neck causing death by strangulation. Of the 45 active swallow nests on the bridge, 43 had eggs (mean-3.8) while 2 contained young (mean-3.0).

Between 27 May and 17 June 1978 we inspected 100 bridges and culverts in Franklin County and located 625 Barn Swallow nests. Although we commonly found horse hairs projecting from the nests, no additional horse hair induced mortality was evident. Liljedahl (Iowa Bird Life 32:44, 1962) reported finding two recently fledged Barn Swallows tangled in mule tail hair beneath a nest in a barn. He speculated the birds had become tangled in the hair while in the nest. In the case reported here, the adult evidently was visiting the nest and became tangled in the horse hair which apparently had been part of the nest lining.

We gratefully thank Steve M. Speich, Harmon P. Weeks and John R. Patterson for their helpful criticisms of the manuscript draft. Carroll A. Rieck provided support and encouragement at different levels throughout the length of the study.

Accepted 8 December 1980

Barn Swallow *Sketch by Narca Moore*

FOUR ADDITIONAL CASES OF BIRD MORTALITY ON BARBED-WIRE FENCES

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DANA C. RYAN, 424 S. Edison St., Olympia, Washington 98501

Avery et al. (U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv. rep. FWS/OBS-78/58, 1978) recently summarized known avian mortality at man-made structures. In addition, Fitzner (Raptor Research 9:55-57, 1975) reported collisions of one Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) and one Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) with barbed-wire fences. This note describes four additional cases of barbed-wire caused mortality.

On 22 September 1973 in Whatcom County, Washington, Skriletz found a dead Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) hanging by its right wing from the top strand of a 3 strand barbed-wire fence. The fence was located in an area characterized by marshes and wet meadows.

On 27 September 1977 in Kittitas County, Washington, Knight and Ryan found a dead Short-eared Owl hanging by its right wing from the top strand of a 3 strand barbed-wire fence. The surrounding habitat was shrub-steppe.

On 7 September 1977 in Mason County, Washington, Skriletz found a dead Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) impaled by the thigh on the top strand of a 2 strand barbed-wire fence. The fence crossed an estuarine creek approximately 7 m wide at low tide with intertidal marsh on both sides. We surmised the heron died by drowning as the top strand of the fence is covered by water at high tide.

During September 1978 Skriletz found a dead Sora (*Porzana carolina*) hanging by its left wing from the top strand of a 5 strand barbed-wire fence. The fence separated a Christmas tree farm of approximately 1 m high trees from a county road. The closest water was the Deschutes River more than 1 km away.

In all instances the birds appeared to have hit the fences forcefully, indicating that they did not see it or perceive it as a hazard. Anderson (Raptor Research 11:71-72, 1977) and others have reported similar circumstances. Although none of the dead birds were aged, it is of interest that all mortalities occurred in September. The birds may have been young of the year and/or migrants. In either case they would have been unfamiliar with the area they were flying through or with fences in general. Fitzner (1975) discussed the implications of fence caused mortality in raptors. He suggested that lack of familiarity with their surroundings in such a nomadic species as the Short-eared Owl, as well as inexperience with fences by young owls, could be two explanations for such accidents.

Barbed-wire fences are ubiquitous in Washington, therefore presenting a hazard to all bird species that fly close to the ground. The magnitude of this form of mortality has not been assessed. It may be worthwhile to monitor future occurrences and develop plans to reduce hazards in trouble areas.

Alan M. Craig, Richard E. Fitzner and John R. Patterson reviewed the manuscript in various stages, and their assistance is appreciated.

Accepted 18 April 1979

MIGRATION OF THE PURPLE MARTIN IN SOUTHERN MEXICO

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The migration of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) south of the United States is poorly documented. There are few specimen records from either migration routes or wintering grounds. Sight records are of comparatively little value because female Purple Martins resemble closely the abundant Gray-breasted Martin (*P. chalybea*). This is important because observations of roosting martins are often at night and usually only ventral views are possible. Little is known of the extent to which these two species flock and/or roost together. For example, on 7 August 1961, RWD observed a group of 30 female-plumaged martins roosting on wires in the village plaza at Tlacotalpan, Veracruz, which included birds of two sizes and that varied in the extent of white and gray in the underparts. In such flocks the species composition is uncertain, and the presence of male Purple Martins in dark plumage is still not acceptable proof of the presence of *P. subis*. The similarly plumaged *P. modesta elegans* of South America was once taken in Florida (Key West, 14 August 1890) and Panama (Eisenmann and Haverschmidt 1970) and could appear in Mexico.

Additionally, Caribbean forms of *Progne* with confusing plumages (Eisenmann 1959) could occur with *P. subis* and make identification even more difficult. Further confounding the understanding of the migration of *P. subis* is the apparent asynchronous migration of males (earlier) and females (Phillips et al. 1964). Hence the number of adult males present in a migrating or roosting flook may have no direct relationship to the number or presence of females. We attempt here to summarize available information on the migration of the Purple Martin in Mexico, primarily through the Gulf lowlands.

Purple Martins reach southern Mexico by early July. On 10 July 1961 RWD saw seven adult male Purple Martins among approximately 1200 roosting martins in the plaza at Tlacotalpan, Veracruz. On 24 July 1961 one adult male was observed among approximately 300 and on 27 July 1961 three or four were noted among 500-600 roosting martins. Migrating flocks which included adult males were also noted near Tlacotalpan on 27 July 1961. Niles (1972) examined 21 migrants from Yucatan Peninsula (18), Honduras (1), Nicaragua (1) and Cuba (1) taken between 25 July and 8 October (it was not possible to correlate dates and general localities from his discussion). Russell (1964) reported a sight record for 13 July and a specimen collected 25 July in Belize.

In August large flocks and roosts of martins occur in many areas in the Gulf lowlands of Mexico, especially at the plazas of towns and villages. Klaas (1968) described a flock of "several thousand individuals" and collected three female Purple Martins from 14 to 17 August 1962 near Felipe Carillo Puerto, Quintana Roo. On the night of 25 August 1977, two of us (RMZ and SLF) observed approximately 14,000 martins roosting on utility wires in the central well-lighted section of downtown Villahermosa, Tabasco. There were 63 adult male Purple Martins (purple plumage) among a sample of 6,900 birds counted. However it is unclear how many Purple Martins were present because of the difficulty in distinguishing females from *P. chalybea*. Elsewhere in Central America, in areas where Purple Martins are not regular visitors, roosts of *P. chalybea* numbering tens of thousands develop during this same period

(for example in Escuintla, Guatemala; RWD pers. obs.). Our latest fall record for the Purple Martin in Mexico is a female taken by R.J. Oehlenschlager in the Sierra de San Andres Tuxtla, Veracruz, on 7 October 1974.

Russell (ibid.) wrote of Purple Martins in Belize, "Spring migrants were seen as early as February 6, but most birds passed through in the first two weeks of March." Monroe (1968) recorded specimens from La Cieba on the Gulf lowlands of Honduras taken 3 May. The spring migration in Mexico is also poorly documented. Niles (1972) examined eight specimens from the Yucatan Peninsula taken between 18 February and 17 April. We have many records between 3 April, when two males with two female-plumaged birds were seen at Tlacotalpan (RWD), and 30 April when a female *P. subis* was collected at that locality, and five males were seen near Lake Catemaco, Veracruz (RWD). Spring records are lacking from other parts of Mexico. It should be noted that Loetscher (1955) erroneously recorded as *P. subis* five specimens of *P. chalybea* collected 2-4 May at Lake Catemaco by Nelson and Goldman.

Knowledge of the migration patterns of Purple Martins through Mexico and Central America is fragmentary. We wish to point out the problems that exist with regard to the migration of the Purple Martin, that only careful sight records will contribute to existing knowledge, and that additional specimen records are needed to adequately document the migration of this species.

We wish to thank Richard J. Oehlenschlager, Robert M. Mengel and John Weskes for verifying specimen identifications and the first for providing us unpublished information on specimens in the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota. We thank Allan R. Phillips for calling to our attention the misallocation of the Nelson and Goldman specimens from Catemaco and Ned K. Johnson and Dale A. Zimmerman for useful comments on the manuscript.

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INTERGRADE JUNCOS (*JUNCO HYEMALIS MEARNSI* X *J. CANICEPS CANICEPS*) IN EASTERN COLORADO

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The foothills of the Colorado Front Range provide wintering habitat for several races of the *Junco* complex. One can easily observe Gray-headed Junco (*Junco caniceps caniceps*) as well as five recognizable forms of Dark-eyed Junco (*J. hyemalis*). Listed in general order of occurrence these forms include Pink-sided Junco (*J. h. mearnsi*), dark-hooded forms of Oregon Junco (*J. h. oreganus*), Slate-colored Junco (*J. h. hyemalis*) and White-winged Junco (*J. h. aikeni*).

Among one mixed *Junco* flock coming to feeders along Bluebell Canyon in Boulder County, Colorado, were two individuals which by plumage characteristics appeared to be vividly marked intergrades between *caniceps* and *mearnsi*. The flank color (typically gray in *caniceps* and warm buff in *mearnsi*) of both intergrades was a warm rusty-buff. Likewise, the back color (rust in *caniceps* and dull brown in *mearnsi*) was a rich rust (Figure 1). Both individuals were observed from early December 1979 to late March 1980. George F. Barrowclough, currently studying geographical variation in the genus *Junco*, examined a color photograph of one of these birds and confirmed that it appeared to be an individual from one of the intergrade populations of *J. c. caniceps* - *J. hyemalis mearnsi*.

Figure 1. Intergrade Gray-headed X Pink-sided Junco. Bluebell Canyon, Boulder County, Colorado, 20 March 1980.

Photo by Bruce E. Webb

Hybrid *mearnsi* X *caniceps* individuals have been recognized previously. Miller (Condor 41:211-214, 1939) describes such breeding specimens from isolated sections of the Wasatch Mountains in Utah and scattered ranges in southern Wyoming. Similar hybrids have been collected in the Flagstaff, Arizona, area in winter (specimens deposited at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, G.F. Barrowclough pers. comm.). However, east of the Continental Divide in Colorado, *Junco* hybrids of this combination are relatively rare.

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